

Givin' it to the Man

Recently the Lord brought something to my attention that I have noticed happen before but never gave any serious thought. One morning whilst lying in bed I was silently praying for the safety and health of my family members when the thought "You'd better do a better job for them than you've done for me!" interrupted my prayers!

Normally I would just continue on with my prayers but the question was nagging me; where on earth did that awful thought come from? I have always understood that Satan cannot read our minds, but I started to question that doctrine. While praying and reflecting on this matter I felt that the Lord revealed the answer to me: "The 'New Man' was praying but the 'Old Man' was trying to interrupt!"



(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (KJV) 

Satan and his demons are able to insert thoughts into our minds but they cannot read them. As such they obviously cannot insert thoughts that are in the context of what we are thinking. I have always thought of this "Old Man" spoken of in the Word as a way of thinking, not a literal personality that can operate on its own. We talk of struggling with the flesh but we don't realize just how real and personal this battle is!

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

Luke 5:37-39 (KJV) 

The above scripture says much about this struggle. God does not pour His "new wine" into our old fleshly vessels but creates in us new vessels. And we must develop a taste for this new wine, our old man doesn't like it one bit!

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10 (KJV) 

I've written several times before about our inherent sin nature. It remains present in us working against us even long after God has created that new heart in us. We must be diligent to avoid sinning in thought, word and deed because doing such things feeds that "Old Man". At the same time we must also feed our "New Man" by filling ourselves with God's Word.

Our "Old Man" wants to accuse God almighty of not being faithful because He allows us to suffer. But our "New

Man” who is filled with the Holy Spirit knows that this is not true. I wonder how many Christians out there have had these same types of thoughts and become convinced that they are demonized?

And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Mark 7:20-23 (KJV) 

I remember having discussions with other Christians about such matters. One good example that was brought up was when we stub our toe and a bad word slips out. Does that mean we are demonized? Or no longer saved? Of course not! We have to live with this “Old Man” in us, even as we struggle with him and revile him. (**Romans 7:24 KJV** )

For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:15-18 (KJV) 

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (KJV) 

We must keep our “Old Man” under subjection. This wretched part of us that has no respect for things of God, that wants us to feed it constantly whether it be with sex, drugs or Twinkies. Our flesh is never satisfied, it just hungers for more, more, more. And just when we think we have him under our thumb he will blurt out the vilest thoughts into our minds. So we have got to keep on “Givin’ It to the Man” until our dying breath.

